

Princess Philippine Charlotte of Prussia

Princess Philippine Charlotte of Prussia (13 March 1716, in Berlin – 17 February 1801, in Brunswick) was Duchess of Brunswick-Wolfenbüttel by marriage to Duke Charles I. Philippine Charlotte was a known intellectual in contemporary Germany. She is listed as a female composer as she is thought to have written marches and other music.

Contents

Life

Issue

Ancestry

References

External links

Life

Philippine Charlotte was the fourth child and third daughter of Frederick William I of Prussia and his wife Sophia Dorothea of Hanover (those who reached adulthood; she was otherwise seventh child and fourth daughter).

On 2 July 1733 in Berlin, Princess Philippine Charlotte married Duke Charles of Brunswick-Wolfenbüttel, eldest son of Ferdinand Albert II, Duke of Brunswick-Wolfenbüttel. Charles inherited the dukedom on his father's death in 1735, making her Duchess consort.

The double marriage alliance between Prussia and Brunswick by her marriage to Charles I, and that of her brother Frederick to Charles' sister Elisabeth Christine, led to a permanent alliance of the most important North German Protestant houses Prussia and Brunswick.^[1] The family ties of the two dynasties resulted the alliance of Brunswick and Prussia in the Seven Years' War, and the career of Philipines sons in the Prussian service.^[2]



Philippine Charlotte was described as subtle, highly educated and a child of the enlightenment.^[3] She worked independently of an extract of the philosophical writings of Christian von Wolff in French.^[4] The Duchess pursued, partly because of the influence of the ducal adviser Johann Friedrich Wilhelm Jerusalem, the German intellectual life very closely. She appreciated the poet Salomon Gessner and maintained a personal relationship Friedrich Gottlieb Klopstock.^[5] The dramatist Lessing were also among her circle.^[6]

As Duchess consort, Philippine Charlotte's court life focused on the circle of conversation she held before and after dinner in her state apartments in the Grauer Hof, to which she attracted scholars and men of letters with positions at court.^[7] The Brunswick court attended a few opera performances and public balls a year in accordance with court etiquette, but the large expenditure of her spouse soon made it necessary to have a more economic court life.^[8]

She raised her son Charles in reverence of her brother, Frederick of Prussia, gave him a humanist education with Abbé Jerusalem among his tutors, and sent him on a Grand Tour with the archaeologist Winckelmann as his companion.^[9]

Philippine Charlotte of Prussia



Portrait by Francesco Carlo Rusca

Duchess consort of Brunswick-Wolfenbüttel	
Tenure	2 September 1735 – 26 March 1780
Born	13 March 1716 <div>Stadtschloss, Berlin</div>
Died	17 February 1801 (aged 84) <div>Brunswick</div>
Spouse	<u>Charles I, Duke of Brunswick-Wolfenbüttel</u>
Issue	<u>Charles II, Duke of Brunswick-Wolfenbüttel</u> <div><u>Prince Georg Franz Sophie, Margravine of Brandenburg-Bayreuth</u><div><u>Prince Christian Ludwig Anna, Duchess of Saxe-Weimar-Eisenach</u><div><u>Prince Frederick Augustus</u><div><u>Prince Albrecht Heinrich</u><div><u>Princess Louise</u><div><u>Prince Wilhelm Adolf</u><div><u>Elisabeth Christine, Crown Princess of Prussia</u><div><u>Princess Friederike Augusta Dorothea, Abbess of Gandersheim</u><div><u>Prince Maximilian Julius Leopold</u></div></div></div></div></div></div></div></div></div>

In 1773, Charles I was obliged to make his son regent, and in 1780, he died, and was succeeded by her son.

Mother <u>Sophia Dorothea of Hanover</u>

The Swedish Princess Hedwig Elizabeth Charlotte described her, as well as her family, at the time of a visit in August, 1799:

Our cousin, the Duke, arrived immediately the next morning. [...] After he left us, I visited the Dowager Duchess, the aunt of my consort. She is an agreeable, highly educated and well respected lady, but by now so old that she has almost lost her memory.^[10]

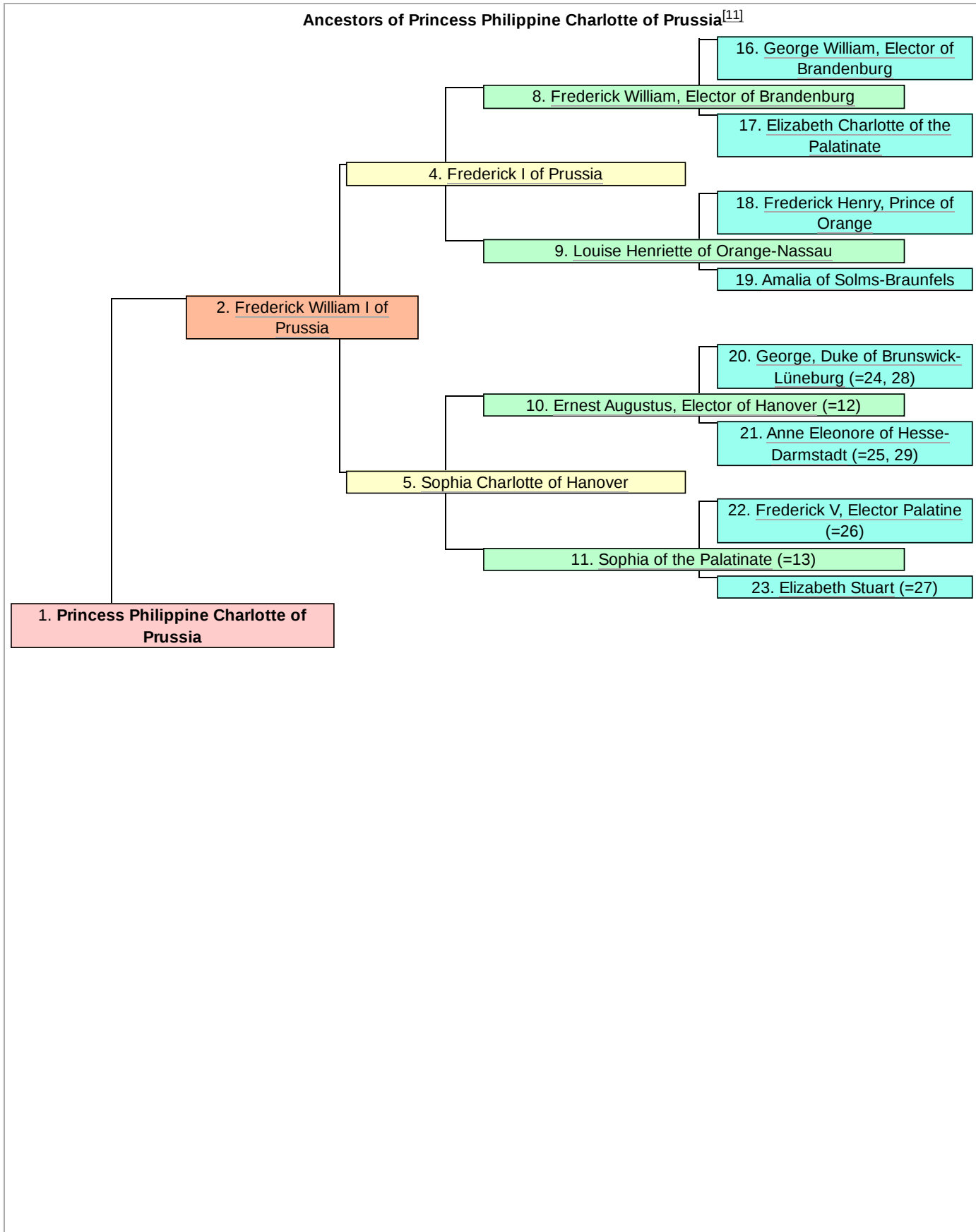
Philippine Charlotte left to the Wolfenbüttel Library her own collection of 4,000 volumes.

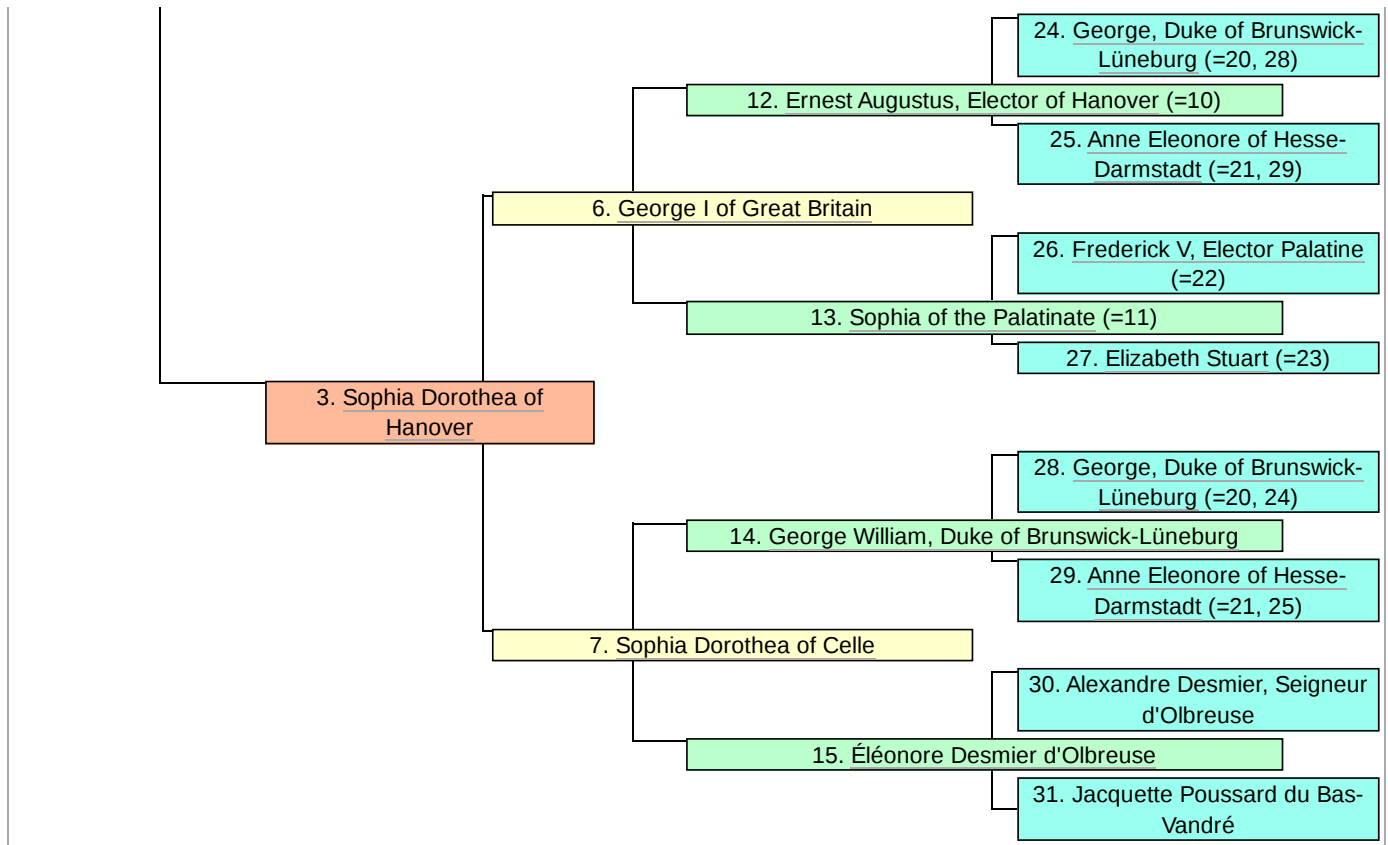
Issue

Issue			
Name	Portrait	Lifespan	Notes
Charles II Duke of Brunswick-Wolfenbüttel		9 October 1735- 16 October 1806	Married <u>Princess Augusta of Great Britain</u> , had issue
Georg Franz		29 September 1736- 10 December 1737	Died in infancy
Sophie Caroline Marie Margravine of Brandenburg-Bayreuth		7 October 1737- 21 December 1817	Married <u>Frederick, Margrave of Brandenburg-Bayreuth</u> and had no issue
Christian Ludwig		13 November 1738- 12 April 1742	Died in childhood
Anna Amalia Duchess of Saxe-Weimar and Eisenach		24 October 1739- 10 April 1807	Married <u>Ernest Augustus II, Duke of Saxe-Weimar-Eisenach</u> and had issue
Frederick Augustus		29 October 1740- 8 October 1805	Married Princess Friederike Sophie Charlotte Auguste of Württemberg-Oels and had no issue
Albrecht Heinrich		26 February 1742- 8 August 1761	Died unmarried;
Luise		18 December 1743- 22 February 1744	Died in infancy
Wilhelm Adolf		18 May 1745- 24 August 1770	Died unmarried;
Elisabeth Christine Crown Princess of Prussia		8 November 1746- 18 February 1840	Married <u>Frederick William, Crown Prince of Prussia</u> and had issue The marriage was dissolved in 1769
Friederike		8 April 1748- 22 January 1758	Died in childhood
Augusta Dorothea Abbess of Gandersheim		2 October 1749- 10 March 1810	

<p>Maximilian Julius Leopold</p>		<p>11 October 1752- 24 April 1785</p>	<p>Died unmarried</p>
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Ancestry





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- Genealogie ascendante jusqu'au quatrieme degre inclusivement de tous les Rois et Princes de maisons souveraines de l'Europe actuellement vivans* (<https://books.google.com/books?id=AINPAAAACAAJ&pg=PA16>) [*Genealogy up to the fourth degree inclusive of all the Kings and Princes of sovereign houses of Europe currently living*] (in French). Bourdeaux: Frederic Guillaume Birnstiel. 1768. p. 16.

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